We find ourselves
among the Christmas lights
in snow white crystals moving
through the night. We reach
along the glass
of winter ice
and touch between
the circle of our arms.  
Rebecca French, 1972

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAY EVENTS


Dec. 17th: From noon to 4 p.m. in Portal Foster Center, Betty French and Caroline Steva will sell their pottery and prints. Sponsored by the Prairie Social Action committee. Plan to do some Xmas shopping there.

Dec. 22nd: Carol singing with the Community of John XXIII, at the Portal Foster Center from 8 p.m. to ... The singing and playing of carols will be followed by fellowship over punch and cookies. Many of us at Prairie will remember our previous warm meetings with the Community of John 23rd. They are an ecumenical Christian fellowship of 15-20 families who have been meeting in Madison since Vatican II. This lay group has no priest or minister, no permanent meeting place and stresses informal family centered services and social action. Both Prairie and John 23rd, as young congregations, share many of the same joys and problems of a small, close fellowship. This is an opportunity to meet and learn from each other as well as indulge in some lusty singing. No provision has been made for young children, as this service is aimed at adult and youth. For more information, call Ruth Calden, 233-5717.

Dec. 24th: Family Christmas Eve service at 10 a.m. at Portal Foster Center. Bring something special you would like to hang as an ornament on the tree. Program by Bruce Bashore.

Dec. 24th: Joint vesper service at First Society's meeting house beginning at 4:30 p.m. Not for children.

Dec. 28th: Program meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Dan Willard's, 2217 West Lam Ave.

Dec. 29th: Annual Christmas party at Ted and Rebecca Clark's at 8 p.m., 1134 Waban Hill.

Dec. 31st: A psychological approach to personal renewal. 10 a.m. at Portal Foster Center. Program by Bruce Bashore. No church school.

Jan. 7th: Games and chatter and things like that. Program 10 a.m. coordinated by Al Nettleton.

AN OPEN LETTER TO BARBARA AND DAN WILLARD: As a member of Prairie, as chairman of the Program Committee, as a previously fairly uninformed typical polluter, I'd like to say again "thanks." Your programs were challenging enough, but I consider the most challenging statement you made was the on-going way in which you live in the commons. Your lifestyle, your pride and commitment rolled behind all the facts and figures you presented in your programs to drive home a strong affirmation of living in accord with nature. Peace to you and your family this holiday season.

-Mark McElreath

AN OPEN LETTER TO BRUCE BASHORE: Congratulations on starting your series of adult programs with such a bang-up good job. It's nice to shift from the excellent programs of the Willards to again, excellence. It's a fine wintertime treat. I look forward to your three months as lay minister.

—Mark McElreath

Pat Cauley has a broken tibia. Stop by, 1805 Regent, and sign her cast and tickle her big toe.

Betsy Roberts, whose daughter Cherlyn is in India, is herself away for the Christmas season. Write Betsy c/o Maude West, 319 Catalpa St., Pineville, Kentucky, 40977.

PEACE ON EARTH GOODWILL TO PEOPLE reprinted with permission— from Ms. magazine, Dec. 1972.

We wish you what we wish for ourselves—a Christmas time of thoughtfulness and compassion. A time to look back on the year just passed and sort out wastefulness from growth. A time to plan a new year of work informed by respect for individual worth and love for one another. A Christmas time of realizing that time is all there is—and it is not too late to change our lives.

We wish for all of us the courage to hold on to a vision of a world in which children are born wanted and loved, with enough food and care and shelter to grow up whole. The vision of all people as perfectable and transcendent—free of social prisons of sex and race—and remarkable for the hopes and dreams and capabilities that exist in unique, unrepeatable combinations in each of us.

This Christmas time, it is too late to justify suffering with the promise of rewards in some other world. Too late for nationalism, for racism, for violence—or for the belief that one can win only if another has truly lost. Too late even for brotherhood of man because it has excluded the sisterhood of woman, and therefore, the humanness of all.

At last we begin. We look into the god in each of us, and say yes. We celebrate the world outside us.

We say peace on earth, goodwill to people.

PRAIRIE SOCIETY MEETS EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT THE PORTAL FOSTER CENTER
1806 West Lawn Ave.
LAY MINISTER: Bruce Bashore, 256-2261

Prairie Unitarian-Universalist
Society of Madison
1806 West Lawn Ave.
Madison, Wis. 53711

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